

Mitigating Impacts to Wildlife Movement in Ventura County



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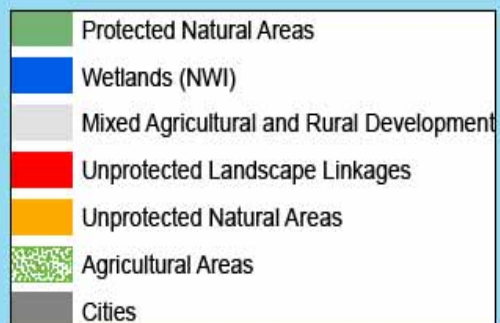
Ventura County Roads and Biodiversity Project

- Part I: Current Status and Future Trends of Biological Connectivity in Ventura County
- Part II: Permitting Discretionary Projects for Biological Connectivity:
Project Design and Mitigation for Land Use (Development, Animal Keeping, Recreation, Oil and Gas, and Mining) and Transportation:
 - Project Site Planning: design to avoid and minimize impacts
 - Mitigation Measures
 - Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program
- Part III: Conservation Planning and Land Use Recommendations

How do we protect and mitigate
for land use and transportation
impacts to biological connectivity
???

Is protecting intact open space
and biological connectivity in the
best interest of **tax payers** and
local governments?

**FIGURE 1A:
AREAS MOST LIKELY
TO SUPPORT
FISH AND WILDLIFE
MOVEMENT:
NATURAL AREAS, WETLANDS,
RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL
AREAS**



Ventura County California
Resources Management Agency



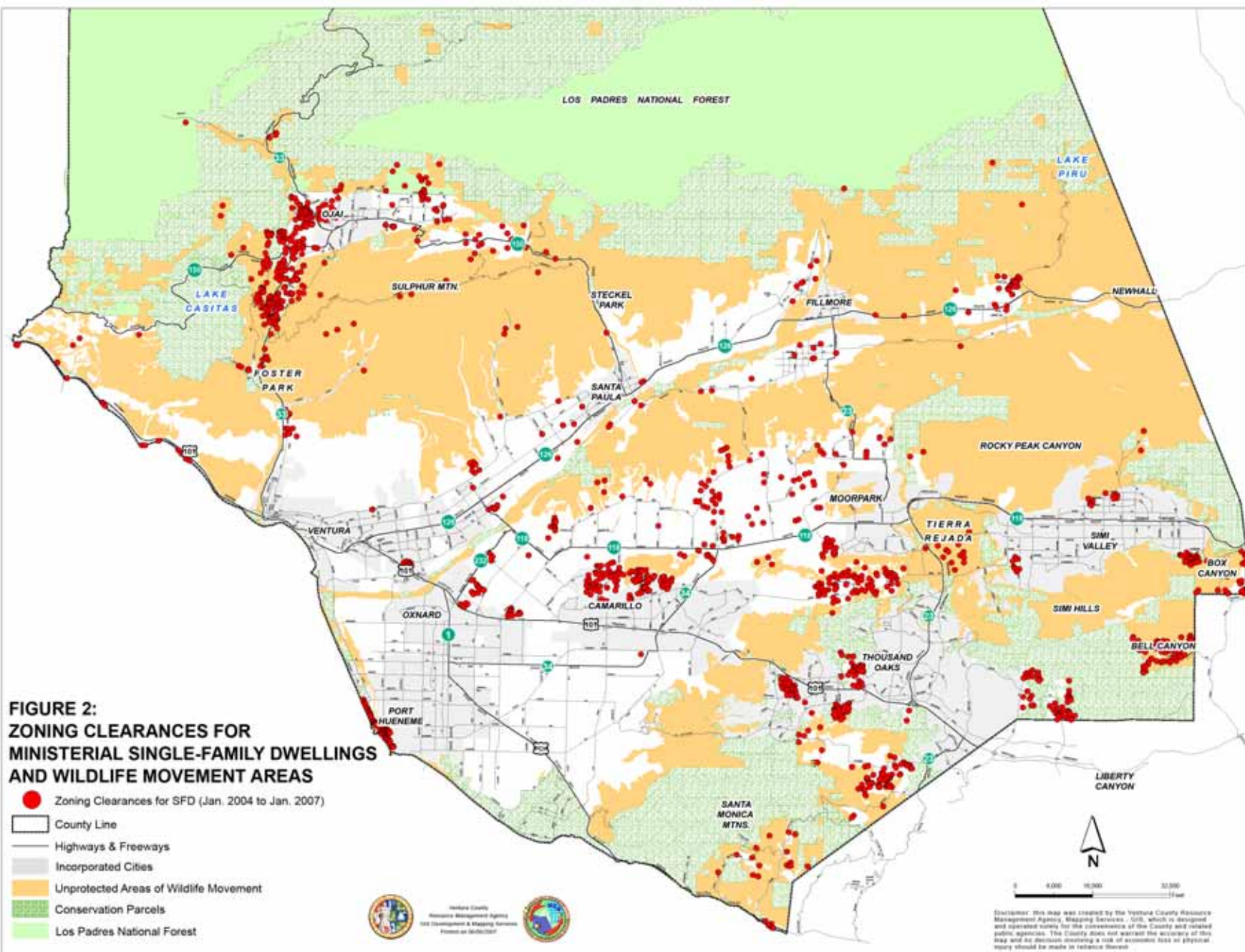
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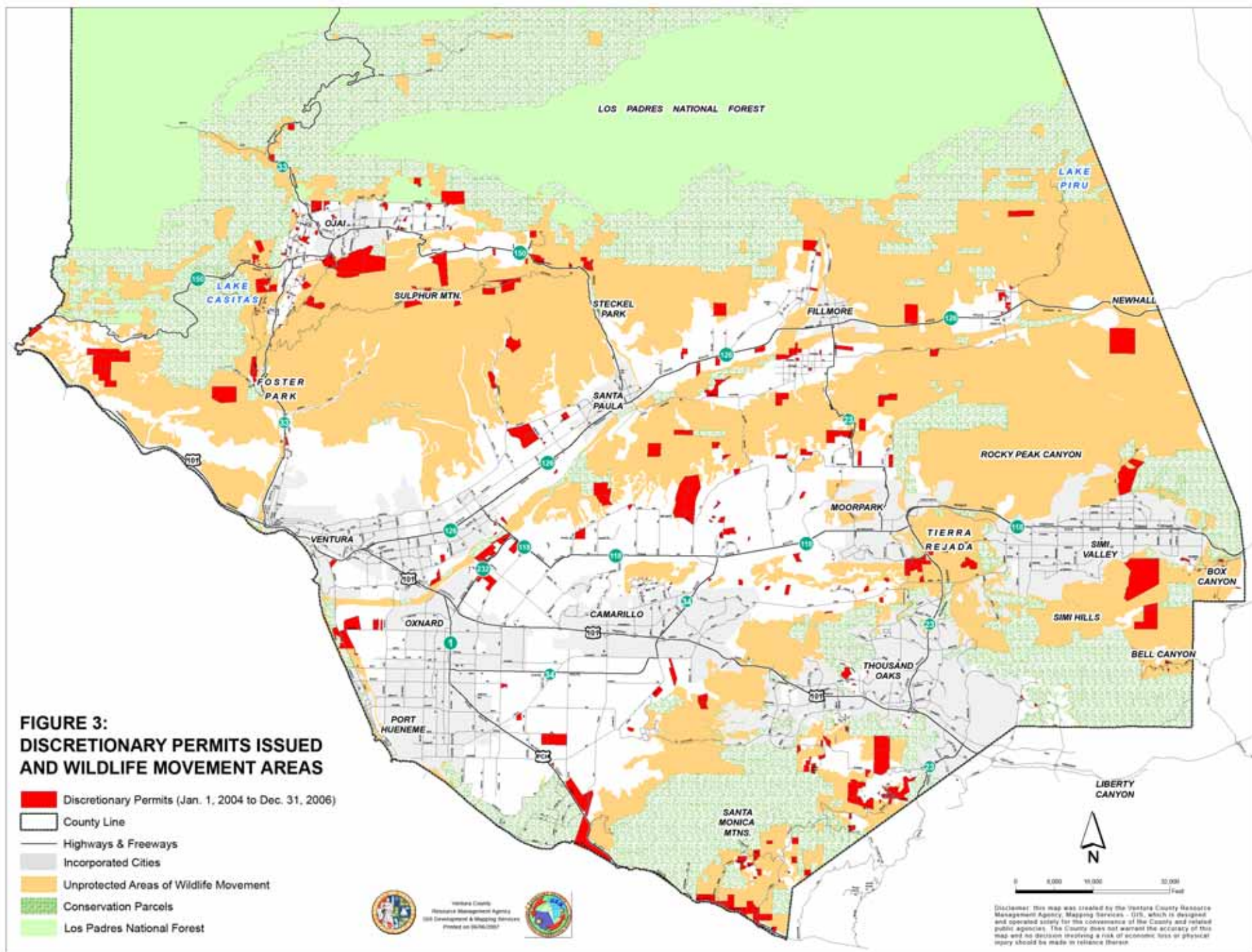
Feet

Disclaimer: this map was created by the Ventura County Resource Management Agency, Planning Division. The County does not warrant the accuracy of this map and no decision involving a risk or economic loss or physical injury should be made in reliance therein.

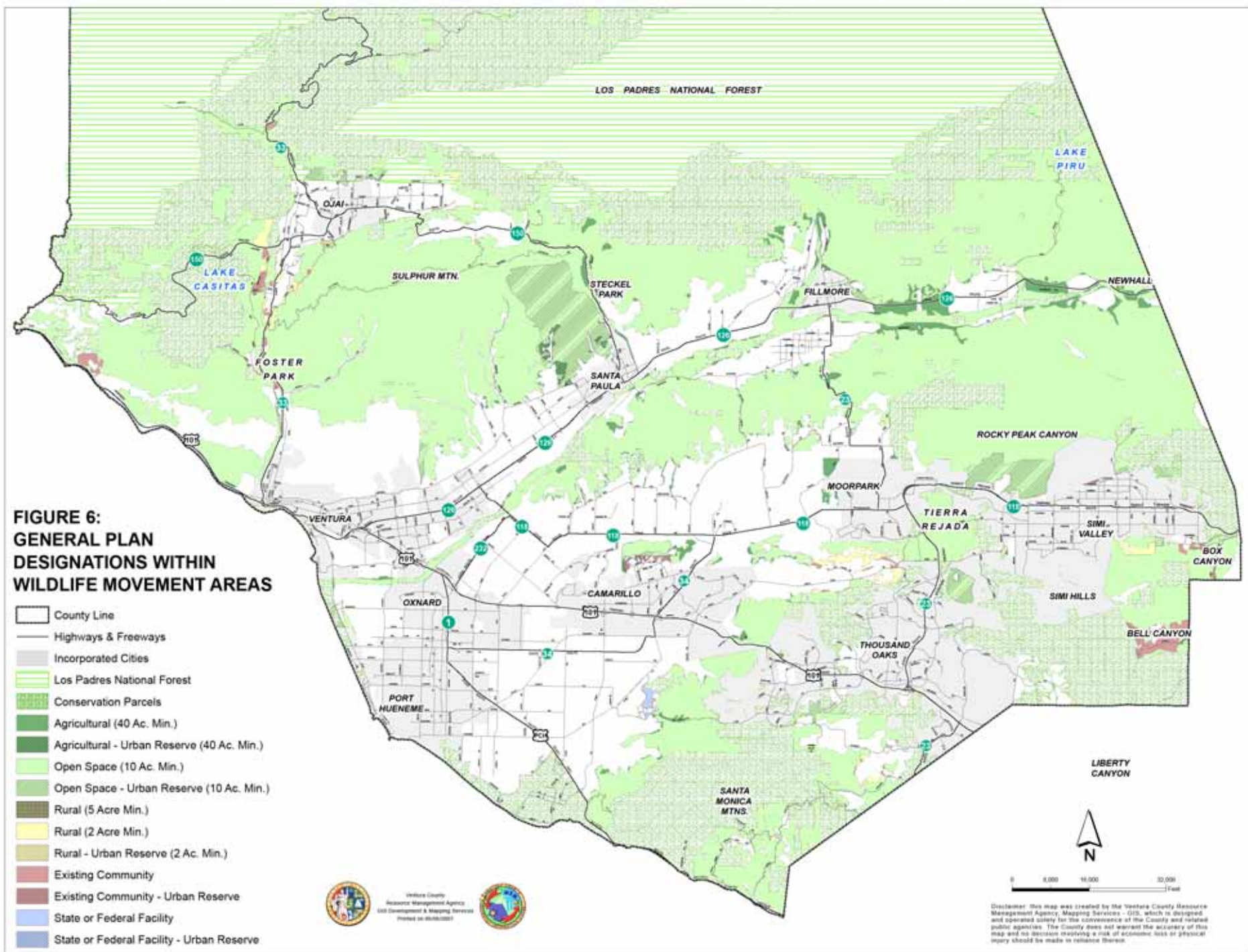
Where has development
occurred within these
unprotected areas in the past
three years

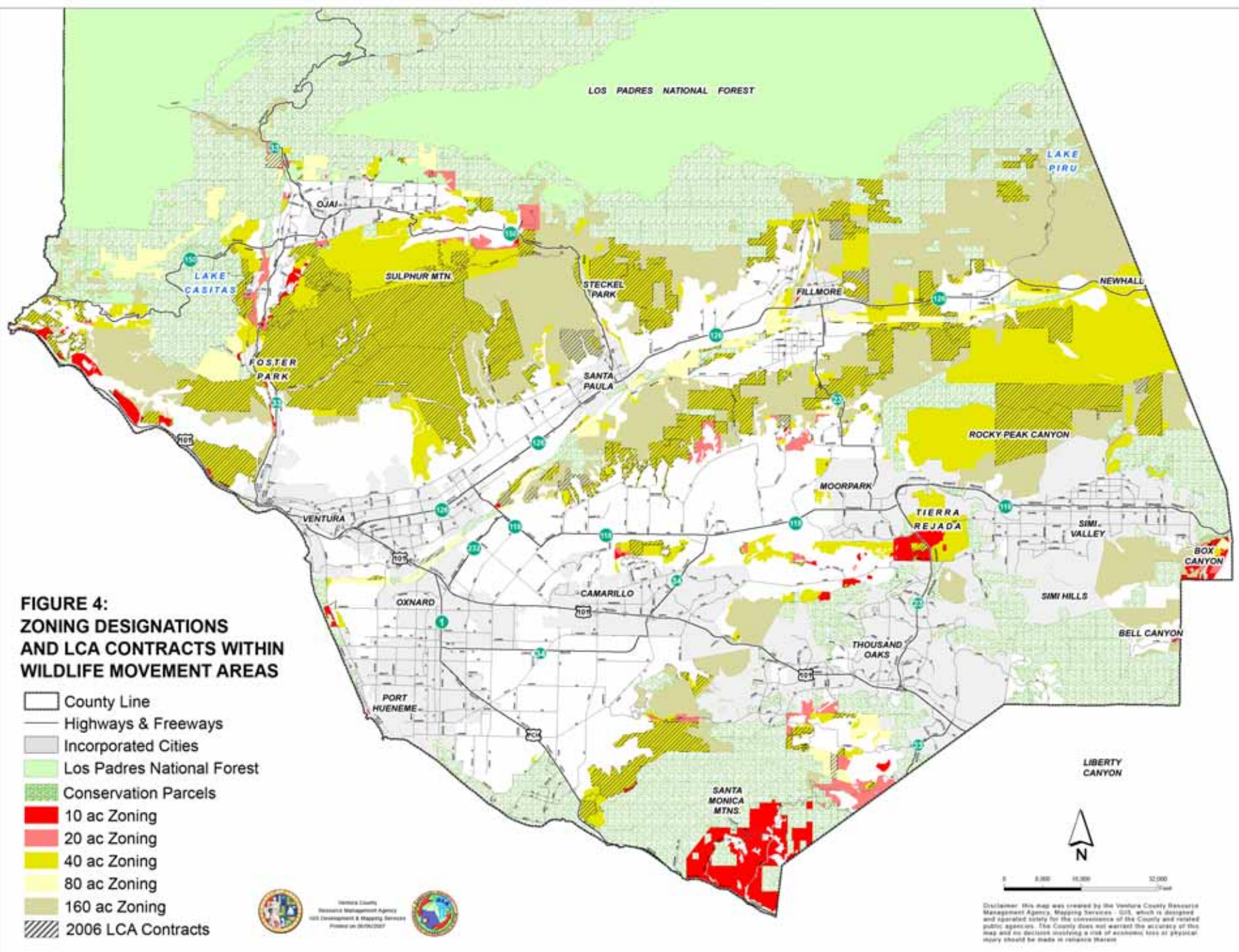
January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2006
in *unincorporated*
Ventura County?





Where might future development
impact the remaining natural
areas that provide
biological connectivity
and
FREE
ecosystem services???





Part II: Permitting Discretionary Projects for Biological Connectivity:

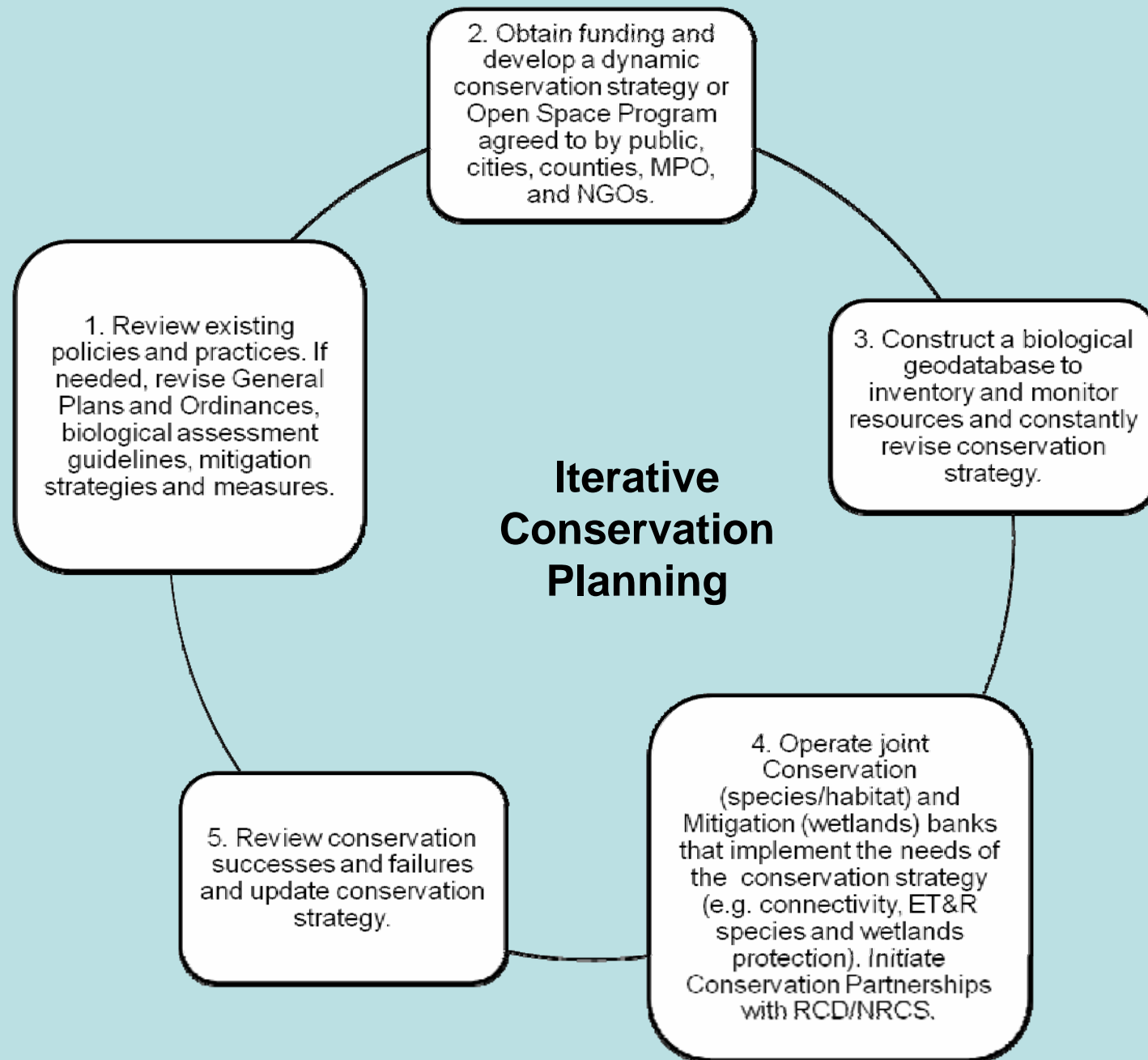
- Assessment Guidelines for Wildlife Movement
- Design recommendations
- Mitigation measures
- Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Table

Part III: Conservation Planning and Land Use Recommendations

- Identifying regional areas of core habitat, linkages and corridors
- Examining past development patterns and existing land use policy (i.e. General Plans and Zoning Ordinances)
- Analyzing the economic costs incurred by exurban development in remaining open space/biologically sensitive areas
- Developing and strictly enforcing comprehensive conservation plans that include biological connectivity
- Creating project scale mitigation measures to offset significant impacts

Why is mitigation failing?

- Jurisdictions either conduct project by project mitigation that fails to protect regional biodiversity (Ventura County), OR
- Jurisdictions develop regional conservation plans such as Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) and Multiple Species HCPs that fail to protect long term project scale resources (Riverside and San Diego).

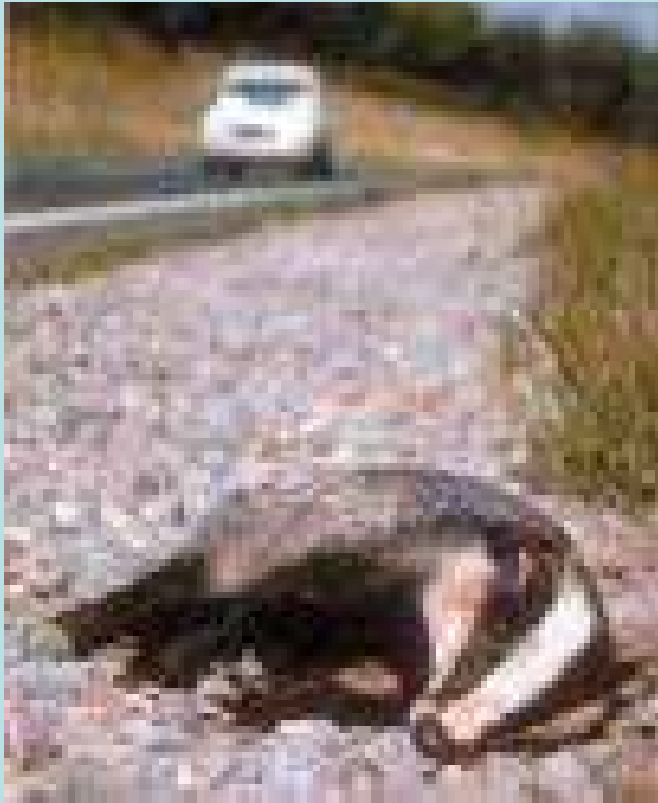


Ventura County's current progress

- Constructed a spatial biological library and CDFG created a Ventura County bookmark available on BIOS (bios.dfg.ca.gov) for CNDDB users to view data
- Developed mitigation measures for Safe Wildlife Passage
- Revising Initial Study Biological Assessment Guidelines and qualification standards for biological consultants
- Creating a biological geodatabase to assess resources (South Coast Wildlands) and reviewing data gaps and needs
- Examining policies regarding biological resource protection and developing recommendations for revisions

Future goals

- Adopt a conservation strategy that includes project and regional biological resource protection through:
 - A dynamic conservation strategy
 - Thorough project assessments and effective project specific mitigation
 - Joint Conservation and Mitigation banks to accomplish project and cumulative mitigation needs
 - Conservation Partnerships (VCRCDD/NRCS) to carry-out voluntary restoration/conservation and regulatory mitigation on private lands
 - Revise conservation strategy as necessary



Questions?